



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, October 22, 2012
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Berthiaume & Fritze, and Town Administrator Gaudette

At 6:02 pm Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting and Executive Session of September 24, 2012, and Business Meeting of October 10, 2012 (/Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input:

None

Communications:

a) New Employee Introduction – Wendy Judge – HR Director

Mr. Gaudette introduced Wendy Judge, the new Human Resources Director. Ms. Judge has over ten years of experience and holds a Master's degree in Human Resources Management. The Board welcomed her. She said she is very happy to be in the new position.

b) Senior Living at Prouty: Candidates Night and Open House

Chairman Pepe announced that MHPI, Inc. will host a Meet and Greet at Senior Living at Prouty on October 29th for candidates vying for the State Representative seat.

MHPI will also host an Open House at Senior Living at Prouty on November 8th for seniors aged 62 and older and their families.

New Business:

a) Action Item: Vote to Approve Tollbooth Request – Exchange Club, Saturday, November 10, 2012 (rain date November 17, 2012) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Main Street between Routes 31 South and 31 North, and the Transfer Station.

Gary Herl from the Exchange Club asked for permission to hold the tollbooth to raise funds for a clothing drive.

A motion to approve the toll booth permit (Woodbury /Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Old Business:

a) 6:15 – Public Hearing to Discuss Transfer Station Changes

Chairman Pepe opened the hearing at 6:15 pm. Mr. Gaudette reported that there is an annual shortfall of over \$100,000 in the cost to operate the Transfer Station.

Irene Congden from the DEP was in attendance to discuss options that came from the survey and gain additional feedback from residents.

Mr. Tyler reported that the Transfer Station collects debris, furniture, cardboard, paper, glass, recyclables, and trash. He presented an overview of Transfer Station options, attached as part of the record.

Ms. Congden asked for feedback from the public relative to the Transfer Station hours of operation and opening to non-residents and area businesses.

Resident Questions/Comments:

Larry Dufault, Cottage St. said he is concerned if the Transfer Station is open to nonresidents there may not be enough hours within the current schedule.

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Rd asked what the percentage of the cost to operate the Transfer Station is paid by property taxes. Mr. Gaudette said it is approximately 25%.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about a reduced rate for senior citizens. Mr. Tyler said since seniors typically use less trash, it would result in a lower bag cost. The proposed increase is nominal and the first in ten years.

Mike Toomey asked about the amount of tonnage, and suggests making the recycling area more user friendly with less waiting in line. Mr. Gaudette said 1,800 tons pass through per year.

Susan Terkanian, High St, suggests changing the current hours from three days down to two days, but with extended hours each week.

Kurt Nordquist, Gale Dr. mentioned he worked at the Transfer Station for six years. He reported that the Town pays Wheelabrator \$67.50 per ton. According to the contract, only residents of Spencer can bring their trash; he is not in favor of allowing outside contractors access. He suggests raising the bag fee to encourage recycling, noting that haulers will pay the Town for recyclables. He also recommends discontinuing the services of We Care, and instead would like to see the Town operate it independently. Mr. Gaudette noted that Wheelabrator is actually paid \$74.60 per ton.

Nancy Richardson, Northwest Rd said it's important to educate people. She recently learned there is a huge market for cardboard and that haulers will pay for it.

Mike Toomey asked about having a regular e-cycling day for electronics. Mr. Tyler said it is an option to explore.

Eric Barrett, Woodside Rd asked about renewable energy. Mr. Tyler said solar is an option. Eric Barrett also asked about regionalizing with E. Brookfield. Mr. Fritze said that E. Brookfield would not be interested since all residents get billed annually for curbside, whether they use it or not.

Al Atchue, Meadow Rd, said he is not in favor of reducing the hours and asked about pricing for a second vehicle in same household. Mr. Tyler said that is likely to remain at the current rate.

Carl Kwiatkowski, Meadow Rd suggested having the recycle section on the top to improve traffic flow.

Mr. Stevens noted that all changes in the operation are a way to save money and be fair to taxpayers. He asked residents to be mindful that it will take time to phase in changes.

Mr. Woodbury noted the following:

- There is a late fee for the purchase of a sticker after a certain time; stickers are not available at the Transfer Station, which would be more convenient.
- He and Mr. Fritze worked with Excel Recycling on getting payments for cardboard.
- The Town could purchase a used tractor for \$20,000
- The Station needs to be better managed

Mr. Pepe said the Town cannot continue to operate at a loss every year.

Mr. Gaudette mentioned that the current contracts were all in existence prior to Mr. Tyler coming on board and would like to give him credit for doing the best he can with what he has to work with.

Mr. Fritze noted that the trailers are not in good condition; one is not fit to be on the road and a replacement is necessary.

Mr. Berthiaume reported that the Town has one of the lowest fees for both sticker and bags. He mentioned having a preferred hauler to get preferred pricing.

Mr. Gaudette thanked Mr. Tyler and Ms. Congden. A copy of presentation will be posted on the website.

At 7:41 Mr. Pepe closed public hearing and thanked Mr. Tyler and Ms. Congden. The Board will follow-up at a future meeting.

b) Discussion: Leadership Hall Nominations

Mr. Pepe reported that the Board is in the process of inducting a person into Leadership Hall. He is working on a draft of the process and will bring it to a future workshop. Mr. Berthiaume noted that the family of this year's nominee asked the Board to share the name in advance in order to give

people the opportunity to attend. Mr. Berthiaume announced the nominee is Charles “Dutch” Meloche.

c) Action Item: vote to Approve Employment Agreement with Town Administrator Gaudette
Mr. Pepe announced that the Board reached an agreement with Mr. Gaudette for the renewal of his contract.

A motion to approve the contract as amended. (Fritze/Berthiaume) passed 5/0.

Mr. Berthiaume provided some background on how Mr. Gaudette became Town Administrator. When Mr. Guida resigned, Mr. Gaudette agreed to be the interim Town Administrator. He instantly excelled at the job and has been an incredible asset to the Town. Mr. Gaudette thanked the Board and the citizens of Spencer and said he looks forward to continuing to accomplish goals for the Town.

Town Administrator’s Report:

a) Discussion: Draft Goals for Town Administrator for FY2013

Mr. Gaudette reviewed his FY13 goals with the Board and noted that he wants to keep the momentum, particularly in the area of grant funding. Board members will review the draft and send their ideas to Mr. Pepe. Additional discussion will take place at the November 14th meeting.

b) Discussion: Action item: Set FY2014 Budget Goals

Mr. Gaudette advised the Board that he will send a memo and information packet to board and commission members, and department heads. He advised the Board to forward their comments by the week of November 7th, and he will place on the November 14th agenda for additional discussion.

c) Discussion: Fall Special Town Meeting Update – Discuss Article Assignments and Town Counsel Comments

Mr. Pepe advised board members to contact Mr. Gaudette for any requests on a specific motion. Mr. Gaudette reported that Attorney Weinberg reviewed the warrant and advised him to eliminate the article that involves the removal of the salary cap for the electrical inspector.

d) Discussion: Power Purchase Agreement

Mr. Gaudette reported the Town is currently locked into a five-year agreement through 2013. He is looking at different options for better rates and will seek quotes for January, 2014.

e) Discussion: Voter ID Requirements

Mr. Gaudette had a discussion with the Attorney General’s office and learned that no one in Massachusetts has put forth a proposal for voter identification requirement. A petition article was submitted and rejected in another community. Mr. Pepe would like to develop a bylaw for voter ID requirement. Mr. Woodbury questioned the need to move this forward at this time, with so

many other priorities. Mr. Berthiaume said he would like to move forward and that Spencer would be the first to do so. Mr. Pepe will begin researching.

Board Liaison Reports:

a) Financial Management Planning Committee Update

Mr. Pepe announced they are moving ahead with public hearings on roads projects. Mr. Gaudette noted that pavement management is at the top of the list for residents.

b) Mr. Gaudette informed the Board that the Capital Committee met to prioritize the four capital requests for Town Meeting.

Citizen Input:

a) Carl Kwiatkowski – asked about a square hole on the corner of Meadow Rd and Route 31. Mr. Fritze said he will investigate.

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Mr. Stevens said he was impressed with the Thompson Pond Road paving crew noting excellent communication and good public relations for the community.

Mr. Pepe thanked Mr. Berthiaume for attending the Sibley Warner celebration and speaking on behalf of the Board. Mr. Berthiaume enjoyed the event and said it was a great day.

Mr. Berthiaume announced that the Halloween Party will be held after trick or treat and mentioned that the event was one of the many started by “Dutch” Meloche.

Mr. Woodbury said he was greeted by big black bear on his porch and advised everyone to be cautious.

At 8:38 pm a motion to adjourn (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Chairman

_____	Vice Chairman
_____	Clerk
_____	Member
_____	Member
_____	Date

Referenced Documents:

Transfer Station Presentation

Town Administrators FY13 Draft Goals